

# NATIONAL PARKS

MAGAZINE



Wheeler Peak, Nevada

40th Anniversary  
National Parks Association  
Founded 1919

*December 1959*

Fifty Cents

GUEST EDITORIAL

# Wilderness On Yellowstone Lake

By Olaus J. Murie



Franz Lipp

**W**HAT ADVENTURES we have to remember, with a canoe! So close to the water, you feel it with your paddle, and somehow you know that you are *doing*, you and the canoe. There is something special in being close to things, in feeling that you are a part.

Our seventeen-foot canoe we call "The Falcon" and we have painted on the bow a falcon portrait. As the falcon glides gracefully through the air with expert wings, so we can glide through the water with the grace of the canoe.

We decided to take our canoe up the Upper Yellowstone River, my two sons and I. Martin, Donald, and I had experienced the wilderness in many parts of this Rocky Mountain region; now we wanted a canoe experience in wilderness. This was in 1942, when motorboats had not yet invaded with their noise all the distant parts of Yellowstone Lake, and we had the urge to explore that part of the lake, and the river.

I shall not try to enumerate all the events of that canoe sojourn: a grizzly crossing in front of us in the river, broods of half-grown geese, the gulls and pelicans and cormorants in the southern part of the lake. As one National Park Service administrator recently commented, the big developments, the motorized activities, are

centered at the outstanding features of the park wilderness. But at the time of our canoe voyage the southern part of the lake was serene and beautiful, with wildlife, feathered and furred, living there as they had learned through many centuries. We could not help feeling privileged and humble in such surroundings. I recall especially the time when we quietly paddled into a little bay, almost surrounded by land with only a small entrance. It was like moving into a little new world. I have often thought I would like to go back and see it again. Although I never did, we still have that bit of rich memory.

\* \* \* \* \*

Now, as we continue swarming over the land, and more than ever live with bustle and noise, such opportunities for quiet thoughtful wilderness adventure are becoming harder to maintain. Shall we reach the point where such experiences shall not even live in anyone's memory? Shall we all become used to, and take for granted, a mechanical thoughtless way of life?

No, I think not. There are more and more people, everywhere, becoming concerned with this. And something is happening right on that part of Yellowstone Lake that I like to remember. Yellowstone Park administrators now realize that the increasing number of

motor boats on the lake are destroying the wilderness atmosphere, even interfering with the normal existence of wildlife there. And they have introduced a plan to keep motorboats out of the three southern arms of the Yellowstone Lake, reserving that distant part of the lake for rowboats or canoes, without motors.

We must realize that in this time of hysteria over big manufacturing ventures, speed and noise, it takes courage to do a thing like that. Our very democracy, about which we talk and write so much, is now at stake. The wilderness traveler, with pack, horse, or canoe, generally cannot make as much noise as exploding gasoline and the cash register; but those who want wilderness as part of our culture nevertheless are being heard, and we are beginning to have champions to help us. The motor enthusiasts are also being taken care of on Yellowstone Lake, in a big way, but it is significant for our future "way of life" that Yellowstone National Park is democratically also providing for those who want to go into wilderness unobtrusively.

Let us not forget that Yellowstone was the first national park in the world, and this move to give consideration to wilderness values augurs well for the future. The administration of Yellowstone Park should be commended for this, and have public support. ■

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# NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 1959

Vol. 33, No. 147

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## ON THE COVER

The desert lies only five miles from this alpine zone on 13,063-foot Wheeler Peak (right) in the proposed Great Basin National Park, Nevada. Because of its great variety of features (including Matthes Glacier, the marble cliffs of Mount Washington, limestone arches, ancient bristlecone pines and Lehman Caves), its dramatic ecological story, and the important role it will play as the primary park system representative of the unique basin-and-range topography, the National Parks Association believes the 147,000-acre area near Ely, Nevada is of national significance and of a caliber for inclusion in the national park and monument system. Public hearings on the proposal are being held in Ely on December 5, 7, and 8. (See p.13)—Photo by Niles and Louise Werner.

## THE NATIONAL PARKS AND YOU

Few people realize that ever since the first national parks and monuments were established, various commercial interests have been trying to invade them for personal gain. The national parks and monuments were not intended for such purposes. They are established as inviolate nature sanctuaries to preserve permanently outstanding examples of the once primeval continent, with no marring of landscapes except for reasonable access by road and trail, and facilities for visitor comfort. The Association, since its founding in 1919, has worked to create an ever-growing informed public on this matter in defense of the parks.

The Board of Trustees urges you to help protect this magnificent national heritage by joining forces with the Association now. As a member you will be kept informed, through NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, on current threats and other park matters.

Dues are \$5 annual, \$8 supporting, \$15 sustaining, \$25 contributing, \$150 life with no further dues, and \$1000 patron with no further dues. Bequests, too, are needed to help carry on this park protection work. Dues and contributions are deductible from your federal taxable income, and bequests are deductible for federal estate tax purposes. As an organization receiving such gifts, the Association is precluded by relevant laws and regulations from advocating or opposing legislation to any substantial extent; insofar as our authors may touch on legislation, they write as individuals. Send your check today, or write for further information, to the National Parks Association, 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

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R. S. Leding

# Mister Grand Canyon

By Natt N. Dodge

AS the naturalist concluded his talk at open, windswept Cape Royal overlook on the North Rim of Grand Canyon, Arizona, his audience was silent. The great gorge, until then merely a huge, colorful, scenic spectacle had become, through the magic of his simple, direct words and dramatic presentation, a fascinating book of earth history, the various chapters marked by the rock formations exposed, layer upon layer, on the precipitous walls. Then a lady rose to her feet, her lips trembling with emotion.

"Mr. Ranger," she exclaimed, as all eyes turned toward her, "you told us about the Colorado River, and how

erosion has cut and widened the canyon, but you didn't mention God even once. Don't you Park Service people give him any credit for the Grand Canyon?"

Park Naturalist Schellbach hesitated only an instant. Smiling, he drew from his pocket a pad and pencil and, holding them up where all could see, he drew a line across the paper. "Lady," he asked, "did I or did my pencil make that line?" There was no sound except the sigh of the wind in the scrubby pinyon pines.

Last April when I called on former Park Naturalist Louis Schellbach and his wife, Ethyl, in their small apart-

**Long-time Association members will recognize Park Service Regional Naturalist Natt Dodge of Santa Fe, New Mexico as author of a wide variety of articles on the work of national parks rangers and naturalists. The warm response to *Seven Star Superintendent* (July-September 1958 magazine) has encouraged us to present this second biographical sketch of a dedicated member of the National Park Service.**

ment in Tucson, Arizona, I reminded him of the incident, recalling his spontaneous action as a stroke of inspiration. Schellbach laughed. "I was on the spot for a moment, wasn't I? I

**AT LEFT**—To the relatively few visitors experiencing the thrill of seeing Grand Canyon in winter, Schellbach pointed out that snow falls only part way down into the great gorge. Thus the 9000-foot north rim has a southern Canadian climate, while the 2400-foot canyon bottom is comparable to northern Mexico.

said to myself, 'think fast, Louie; think fast,' and before I knew it I was illustrating a fundamental concept. Most of us park naturalists believe that a Supreme Being governs, and always has governed, all of nature's forces, and I suppose we take it for granted that other people have the same concept. Perhaps we should state it oftener, or some of the other park visitors might consider us atheists."

Although retired from the National Park Service at age seventy on October 31, 1957, Louis Schellbach is still considered Park Naturalist Emeritus of Grand Canyon, and the home of the "Old Maestro" in Tucson has become a favorite stopping point for Service personnel on field trips.

On the occasion of my April visit, Louie was in a reminiscing mood and came up with a number of souvenirs of his years at Grand Canyon, and before. First he showed me two partially completed exhibit panels he was preparing for the Pack Forestry Foundation's new museum at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico. He has been working part time for the Foundation and also for the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum near Tucson.

Turning from his present-day activities to his early years, he produced snapshots in a dog-eared photo album showing himself as a boy and young man; in the New York National Guard Field Artillery; as a gun captain in the Naval Reserve; and as a first sergeant and later a second lieutenant, United States Cavalry, during World War One. He mentioned incidents during his work as State Archeologist of Nevada, 1922-1927, particularly the excavation of Lost City which he salvaged in advance of the flooding of the area by the waters later impounded behind Hoover Dam. Louie left that post to join the staff of the Museum of the American Indian in New York, 1927-1931, and was assistant secretary of the famous Explorers Club. He illustrated archeological and ethnological papers and publications for several organizations, including the Carnegie Institution, during these years. In the winter of 1932-33 he was a member of the Cocol Expedition on an archeological "dig"

in Panama for the Peabody Museum of Archeology of Harvard University.

"But why," I asked, "did you jump around so much?"

Taking time to rekindle his pipe, Louie looked at me quizzically over the tops of his glasses. Satisfied that my question was sincere, he leaned back in his chair, "when I was a kid I overheard old men, on several occasions, say that if they had their lives to live over they would do something entirely different. I decided that I was not going to have any regrets—and I haven't. I wanted to read as many books, and have as many experiences as I could before settling on any career as an all-around naturalist and museum and field man."

#### "Dig" Leads to Park Career

"How come you selected the National Park Service," I queried.

Relighting his pipe, which went out as he used it to amplify his gestures, Louie tapped me on the shoulder, "by accident," he acknowledged confidentially. "Dr. Clark Wissler and Earl Morris were planning a 'dig' for the Carnegie Institution in Canyon de Chelly, Arizona. Their plan fell through, but it did give me a contact with the National Park Service, and so I went to Grand Canyon as a seasonal naturalist in June, 1933. Because of my experience and training, I was assigned to the Wayside Museum of Archeology where I spent the summer talking Grand Canyon prehistory with visitors and revamping the exhibits in the museum."

He chuckled. "Some of the Service people weren't too happy about a 'seasonal' reworking the exhibits, but when the eminent archeologist, Dr. Harold Gladwin, remarked enthusiastically, 'that's the way it should have been done in the first place,' I heard no more static."

"The experience that summer convinced me that I had found my career at last," Louie continued, "but there was no vacancy at the Canyon so I took an E.C.W. [Emergency Conservation Work program] job at the Service's Western Museum Laboratory in Berke-

ley, California. While there I was assigned, in the summer of 1934, to designing exhibit layout plans at Aztec Ruins National Monument in New Mexico. I spent 1935 in Washington, D. C. with Dr. Carl P. Russell developing the Interior Department Museum, and finally took a considerable cut in salary to get the permanent Junior Park Naturalist job which opened at Grand Canyon in April, 1936. With the resignation of Park Naturalist Edwin D. McKee, I was appointed to fill his position in March, 1941."

Louie's pipe had gone out again, so he laid it aside while he thumbed through various mementos including a file of fan letters and a binder of written tributes and well wishes from friends in the Service given him on the occasion of his retirement.

"You must have really wanted that Grand Canyon naturalist job to take a pay cut to get it," I volunteered.

"That's right," Louie agreed. "As a boy I was enthralled with natural history and read everything I could lay my hands on including the works of Huxley, the writings of Lyell, Darwin, Kipling, Spencer, Dan Beard, Theodore Roosevelt, and Ernest Thompson Seton. Some of it I found difficult to understand and longed for more illustrations to give me a clear picture.

"I decided that I was going to become an artist-naturalist and illustrate

**Mister Grand Canyon—Park Naturalist Emeritus Louis Schellbach at his home in Tucson, Arizona.**

Natt N. Dodge





Abbie Rowe

For large groups or a few individuals, Schellbach was able to make the geology of Grand Canyon a living and pulsating pageant of the past.

natural history subjects. In preparation I studied art at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, from 1912 to 1918. I wanted to furnish other people with the accurate understanding that I had missed. The park naturalist position at Grand Canyon gave me an opportunity to meet thousands of people intimately, to learn of their misconceptions, and to get them back onto the road to understanding. It also taught me to know of people's desire for solitude, and to believe in the national park system as a guarantee that a part of the natural wilderness of America will be forever preserved for the minority who seek relaxation and inspiration in solitude.

"There is a Grand Canyon Naturalists' tradition, the foundation of which was laid by Dr. J. C. Merriam, Frank Oastler and others of the original Advisory Board, and started by Eddie McKee. I believed in this tradition and followed it. This tradition has as its basis the necessity that naturalists have a sympathy for all branches of natural science, and that they serve every visitor from the one with the lowest I.Q. to the Ph.D.'s. The park is a field station and a reference place for all—students, writers, artists, scientists."

"But," I surmised, "you must have listened to thousands of silly questions."

"Oh yes, of course," Louie agreed, "but most of the questions, when I took time to analyze them, were not as silly as they at first seemed. For example, one question we heard almost daily

was 'how far below sea level is the bottom of Grand Canyon?' Anyone stopping to think would realize that the Colorado River couldn't continue flowing through the Canyon if the bottom was below sea level. But many people who asked that question had been to Death Valley where much of the valley floor is considerably below sea level. To a person standing at 7000 feet on the rim of Grand Canyon the bottom of the Inner Gorge seems so far down that the first thought is 'it must be below sea level down there—I wonder how much.' No, so-called 'silly' questions didn't bother me, but I did get a little annoyed with people who, having spent an hour or two along the rim, said that they were moving on because they had seen all of the Grand Canyon. I spent twenty-two years there and feel that I just scratched the surface. A man's lifetime is too short to see and understand more than a part of the Grand Canyon."

While Louie was talking I had become absorbed in reading some of the complimentary letters in his file. Together, they provided an imposing tribute to Schellbach's career at Grand Canyon. One mentioned his invention, the Layman's Herbarium, an interpretive device now being used effectively throughout the entire national park system. Another reminded Louie of the high honor paid him in 1954 when the Secretary of the Interior ordered him to Washington to receive the Department's highest civilian award, the Dis-

tinguished Service Medal for outstanding accomplishment. Among the letters were expressions of appreciation from many prominent people who had experienced the thrill of attending one of Louie's presentations. There were letters from royalty, religious leaders, scientists, government officials, and from many "ordinary folk" who had been so affected and inspired that, after they returned to their homes, they wrote to thank Louie for the experience.

A natural showman, Louie dramatized his talks while his trim—almost jaunty—appearance in uniform, a holdover from his days in the military services, attracted and held the attention of his audiences. He usually wore his hat, even indoors, claiming that it was just as much a part of his uniform as his trousers. His manner of presentation kept the interest of his audiences at a high pitch and drove home the points he wished to put across.

#### "Keep the Show Window Clean"

It was obviously impossible for Schellbach to present all of the talks at the several stations including evening campfire talks on both rims of the Canyon; so, at the start of each season,

In the cramped quarters of the old schoolhouse, "Louie" explains features of the park's expanding scientific collections.

Abbie Rowe



Louie took great pains to train the new members of his small staff of seasonal naturalists. He insisted on absolute accuracy in all of their statements, and drilled into them the importance of courtesy toward visitors and a friendly, informal, yet dignified attitude. His favorite statement was "Remember, the interpretive program is the show window of the National Park Service—let's keep it clean."

Capitalizing on his training in the meticulous techniques of archeological research, and on his ability to sketch, paint, and sculpture lifelike plants, animals, and landscapes, Schellbach not only personally revised all of the exhibits in the Yavapai Point Observation Station (the park's principal interpretive overlook on the South Rim), but he also undertook the Herculean task of developing the park's scientific collections. Arguing that accurate interpretation depended upon sound and complete basic knowledge of park values, without favoritism for any one field, Louie collected, identified, recorded, preserved, and systematically stored an amazingly complete series of significant specimens of the rocks, plants, birds, mammals, insects, and historical items of the park. The latter includes a considerable collection of pertinent photographs, and taped statements of "old timers." In consequence, Grand Canyon's scientific and historical collections, including a number of type specimens, are internationally known and respected by scientists, several of whom—in recognition of Louie's accomplishments—have named new species "schellbachi."

Over the years Louie built an intensely loyal staff and earned a reputation that attracted many would-be park naturalists to work under him. Today it is a mark of distinction among Service naturalists to be a Schellbach "graduate," and scattered throughout the system are many "alumni" of his Grand Canyon training program. One of these, Leslie P. Arnberger, now supervises national park system planning in the Service's Region Three Office in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Of his former instructor Arnberger writes:

Louis Schellbach is one of those exceedingly rare individuals that far too seldom touch the lives of most of us. Those who were fortunate enough to work with him have all absorbed, in

varying degrees, his enthusiasm and dedication to the ideals of the National Park Service, his high regard for quality in every endeavor, and a philosophy that gave meaning and perspective to our place in the total scheme of things.

Thus the Schellbach influence has been felt, not only by the more than eleven million persons who visited the park during the twenty-two years he was there, but by additional millions who have visited units of the system where the men he trained are still proudly carrying on in the Schellbach tradition.

### The Culmination of a Dream

During much of Schellbach's assignment at Grand Canyon, the interpretive division had been quartered in an old frame school building which had been condemned as a firetrap and unsafe for children. As the valuable historical and scientific collections grew, Louie became more and more concerned. Fire in the old frame schoolhouse would be disastrous. Such influential park visitors as the Governor of Arizona and Senators Hayden and Goldwater brought the seriousness of the situation to the attention of officials in Washington. Thus it became one of the rec-

ognized urgent needs of the Service. When, in 1956, Mission 66 finally broke the financial dam and a generous appropriation set the National Park Service on a ten-year program of progress, a visitor center and specimen storage building for Grand Canyon was a top item on the construction priority list.

At the dedication ceremonies for the new Grand Canyon Visitor Center on June 29, 1957, Louis Schellbach sat in an inconspicuous location on the platform. Perhaps more than any other person there, Louie realized the significance of the event. To him it was the culmination of a dream of years, the recognition that interpretation had come of age, the beginning of a new era in which service to the visitor was to be the guiding stimulus.

As the ceremony continued, Louie thought back to those boyhood days of reading and only half understanding, of his overpowering determination, "having known the pangs of thirst, I would drill a well that others might drink." People in the audience may have wondered at the cause of the quiet smile that passed over the usually serious countenance of Park Naturalist Louis Schellbach. ■

As the dedication ceremonies for the new visitor center at Grand Canyon continued, Louis Schellbach (right rear of the platform) thought of his boyhood days of reading and only half understanding and his determination to help others to learn.

R. S. Leding



# Researching Winds in Mount Rainier

Konrad J. K. Buettner and William P. Elliott

**T**HOSE WHO have spent some time in mountainous regions are undoubtedly familiar with the apparently capricious behavior of the winds in and around valleys. These local winds have intrigued scientists for a number of years and considerable effort (particularly in Europe) has gone into describing and explaining them. Nevertheless, more work must be done before we can claim a full understanding of these wind patterns.

Mount Rainier National Park, in the Cascade Mountains of Washington, is currently the scene of a scientific study of wind flow in mountainous terrain. This is one of the first times that a national park has been utilized for extended meteorological study. The study is being conducted by a group of scientists from the Department of Meteorology and Climatology of the University of Washington, under the direction of one of the authors (Dr. Buettner). The Geophysics Research Directorate of the Air Force Cambridge Research Center is sponsoring this work as part of a broad program investigating the effects of terrain on the wind flow.

One of the main causes of the mountain-valley wind circulation is the rising of warm air relative to cooler air. In the daytime, the air close to the ground is warmer than the air above it. Thus, the air close to the valley floor and valley slopes is warmer than the air out over the valley. This gives rise to a general lifting of the air near the surface which results in a wind that blows from lower elevations to higher elevations (up the valley and up the slopes). At night the air near the surface is colder than the air away from the surface and the situation is reversed: the cold air tends to drain down slopes and valley, much as water flows. In most cases, the up- and down-valley winds are stronger than the up- and down-slope winds. Strongest up-valley winds occur in the mid-afternoon; down-valley winds, which are

generally greater than the latter, are strongest shortly after midnight. Wind speeds of ten miles per hour are frequent.

This very simplified picture gives but a sketch of the complex wind system in valleys and it fails to reveal all the features. Scientists have classified the wind system into about a dozen different types. These types are related to the direction of the wind relative to the direction of the valley. Just what type of wind will be found at a given place depends on the position of the place relative to the valley, the time of day, the amount of clouds, and the nature of the underlying surface—whether snow, rock, trees, etc. The unscrambling of all these factors is the purpose of the research. Obviously the first step is to acquire observations of these winds if we are to be able to form a coherent picture of the valley wind system.

During the summers of 1957 and 1958, the first observations were made of the wind in and around the upper Carbon River Valley in the northwest area of the park. The Carbon River is

Now professor of meteorology and climatology at the University of Washington, Dr. Buettner received his PhD in 1926 for work in cosmic radiation in Göttingen, Germany. Dr. Elliott received his doctorate in 1958 from Texas A&M College. A member of the National Parks Association, he is now an atmospheric physicist with the Geophysics Research Directorate of the Air Force Cambridge Research Center in Bedford, Massachusetts.

a glacial stream emanating from the Carbon Glacier on the slope of Mount Rainier. The main portion of the valley is about six miles long and a quarter of a mile wide at its bottom. The valley sides slope at approximately a forty-five degree angle up to the rims, which rise about 3000 feet above the valley floor. The slopes and part of the valley floor are heavily forested with Douglas fir, hemlock, cedar, pine and some hardwoods.

Observations were made on the valley floor near the Ipsut Campground and at several points upstream and downstream from the camp. Other observing stations were located on the ridges to the north and south of the

A helium-inflated pilot balloon is about to be released from the station on the North Rim (see map at upper right) of Carbon River Valley. Mount Rainier is to the right.

Norman Thyer

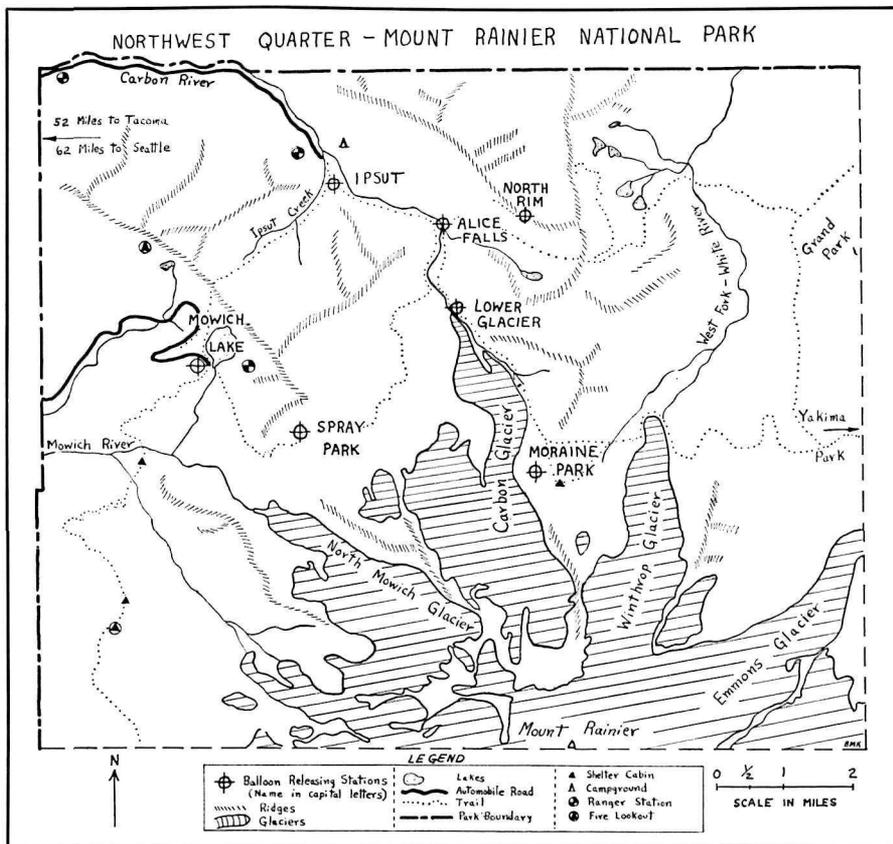


valley and on the alpine meadows at the upper end of the valley above and to the side of the glacier. Supplies and equipment had to be brought to the upper stations both by horseback and on foot by the project members themselves.

Observing teams stay in these upper camps for several days to a week taking observations on a fixed schedule. The observations consist of measuring the wind speed and direction hourly in and over the valley. In order to find out not only how the wind varies close to the ground but also how it changes with height above the ground, "pibal" observations were made. The name "pibal" is derived from the so-called pilot balloons used. These balloons are inflated with a gas, usually helium, to about a four-foot diameter and released from the ground. The flight path of the balloon is determined by following the balloon (or a light attached to the balloon at night) through the telescope of a theodolite (a surveyor's instrument similar to a transit) and recording the relative positions of the balloon at successive intervals of time. In this way, the wind speeds at various distances above the ground can be determined with reasonable accuracy, and, if a number of such balloons are released at different times of day and at different locations, a picture of the wind patterns in and near the valley can be obtained.

Since no two days are exactly alike, these observations must be taken over and over again until the various patterns can be related to such things as the amount of cloudiness, the pressure pattern, and the general wind flow, as well as the configuration of the valley itself. If we can come to understand the wind flow in the Carbon River Valley, we will be a long way toward understanding how mountains and valleys modify the effects of the large high and low pressure systems that are shown on our weather maps.

Of what use will this information be once it has been accumulated? Why should the Air Force be interested in local wind systems? The ability to forecast wind velocities near the ground is necessary for aircraft landings and take-offs, and small air fields are sometimes near mountains. Fog and smoke, which limit visibility, are affected by the winds. If men and ma-



teriel are to be dropped by parachute into mountainous country, the wind distribution vitally affects the jump point. These are but some of the military applications of the knowledge to be gained by such a study. It is obvious that the same applications can be made to non-military problems. There are, however, a large number of other areas in which this information is applicable.

While not of immediate concern to the Armed Services, the solutions of some problems of the biologist, the city planner and the conservationist involve these wind regimes. The dispersal of contaminants, whatever their nature, is controlled largely by the wind. These contaminants may be insecticides and fungicides, or the insects and fungi themselves. They may be seeds and spores. The spread of forest fires in mountainous country is also influenced by local winds. As is so often the case with research, the applications of the results extend beyond the original purpose of the work.

One of the purposes for which the national parks were set aside is to provide areas in which various types of scientific research can be conducted. Mount Rainier National Park is an

ideal location for such work. It provides a mountainous area almost entirely free of human factors such as buildings, agricultural developments, and logged-over sections; yet there are the minimum number of access roads and trails necessary for packing in supplies and equipment without prohibitive expenditure of money and time. Not the least of the advantages of Mount Rainier National Park was the cooperation given the project by Superintendent Macy and his staff of park rangers.

When the project terminates, the equipment will be removed and no trace of the research performed will be left to change the original state of the park. It is one of the ways in which a national park contributes to the welfare of all the country—even those who will never visit a national park may indirectly benefit from the information gained by this study. ■

*MEETING: Members of science teaching societies will meet with the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the Sherman Hotel, Chicago, December 27-30. For information contact Muriel Bueschlein, Chicago Teachers College, Chicago, Illinois.*



Olaus J. Murie

## Our Farthest North National Park

By Olaus J. Murie

**I** HAVE recently received communications from visitors to Alaska expressing concern over plans in Mount McKinley National Park under Mission 66. This is becoming a pretty frequent reaction among people. Perhaps we should consider carefully this public reaction, with all the social implications in it.

Among other things, the main road in Mount McKinley National Park is to be "modernized" with curves taken out, apparently another hurry-up speedway. I have heard talk of another road down the Toklat River. Then for a number of years there has been talk of some kind of settlement or camp at Savage River, right in the open landscape. I remember when the park was first established this place was in the

migration route of the mountain sheep to and from the outer range. Those of us who have hoped for the preservation of the spirit of the "Denali" wilderness have wished that such settlements would be tucked away in wooded areas where the structural intrusions would be so much less conspicuous. It begins to look as though there is an attempt to devote Charles Sheldon's "Wilderness of Denali" to speed and lazy comfort.

A few years ago, when Grant Pearson was superintendent, I happened to be in Fairbanks. He came to see me and we discussed some serious threats to the park, some really dishonest maneuvers. Previously we had conferred on other threats, which I shall not elaborate here. The worst of these,

**As a member of the Board of Trustees of National Parks Association and Director of The Wilderness Society, Olaus Murie needs little introduction to our readers. His long experience as a wildlife biologist and student of wilderness in Alaska generally, and Mount McKinley in particular, qualify him to speak with great authority on his subject.**

which would have been universally condemned, were averted.

We get into the habit, those of us in the government and out of it, of condemning the obvious, overt threats. Perhaps it is a sign of our times, in the flamboyant rush for this, that and the other thing, to overlook the equally dangerous subtle influences that eventually will undermine the quality of human experience. I remember with

great satisfaction a talk I had with a Park Service engineer, out at Wonder Lake. He had the high-level viewpoint that we have traditionally associated with national park administration.

Two years ago I had the opportunity of looking at a large collection of records of James Wickersham at Juneau. I had known him many years ago, but had not realized before what a discerning scholar he was. He was district judge in Alaska from 1900 to 1908, and Delegate to Congress for many years. He traveled widely in that Great Country, in the virile manner of Alaskans of that day. He was versed in, and respected, the lives of the Indians, and freely quoted poetry pertinent to the Alaskan way of life. And he did so much to have Mount McKinley National Park established.

In 1921 and 1922 my brother and I were closely associated with the Park's first superintendent, Henry P. Karstens. I know what he went through as a government employee, doing his best to enforce the rules of a national park in a frontier country. His honesty of purpose and his struggles were not understood in far-away Washington. He was a true Alaskan and a guide with the first ascent of Denali, at a time when such a feat was accomplished without the mechanical help which is becoming so common. I saw Harry a few years before his death, in Fairbanks. I was so impressed with the forthright and intelligent view of our recent culture, by this virile product of the Alaskan wilderness. And I felt so sad to learn of his thoughts as he looked back on his tragic experience in the Service.

Another man who had a rich experience in this same wilderness of Denali was Charles Sheldon. I shall not detail here what he said to me a few years after he had been there, but he deeply loved that country because it is what it is. Karstens and he had the greatest admiration for those hardy sourdoughs who many years ago climbed the mountain, without fanfare, just because they wanted to do it. Much later, adventurous University of Alaska students climbed the mountain similarly; simply, with no special equipment.

I mention all these details, and could mention volumes more, to emphasize something basic to a national park. Each such piece of our planet

has a character all its own. I am sure that those Alaskans I have mentioned worked to have the park established, not to make of it a playground for cheap entertainment, but so far as possible to preserve, in such grand places, bits of the spirit of Alaska as the pioneers knew it. I am sure of this from my talks with those people, and talks with many other Alaskans.

I am convinced that the American people can not show gratitude to such sincere and wise early promoters of the national park ideals merely by putting up a plaque or statue, and lightly calling it "historic". If we mean what we say, we should carefully study what those men had in mind. And then do our best to preserve that spirit of the place they wanted to preserve. It seems to me that we have an obligation to those who made these parks possible—that we should give some heed to what they intended.

In his book called "Wilderness," a story of his experience in southern Alaska, Rockwell Kent says: "A banana peel on a mountain top tames the wilderness." When the bulldozer is turned loose recklessly in a national park, knowing nothing about the effect of a banana peel anywhere, much can be destroyed that the growing number of sensitive people immediately become aware of. I have noticed this especially

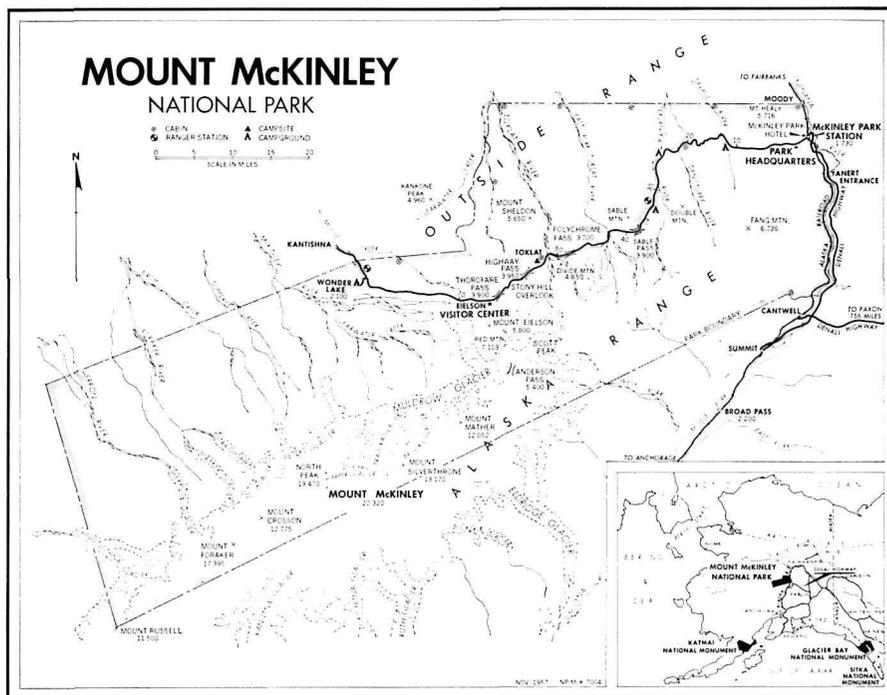
among so many visitors in Grand Teton National Park.

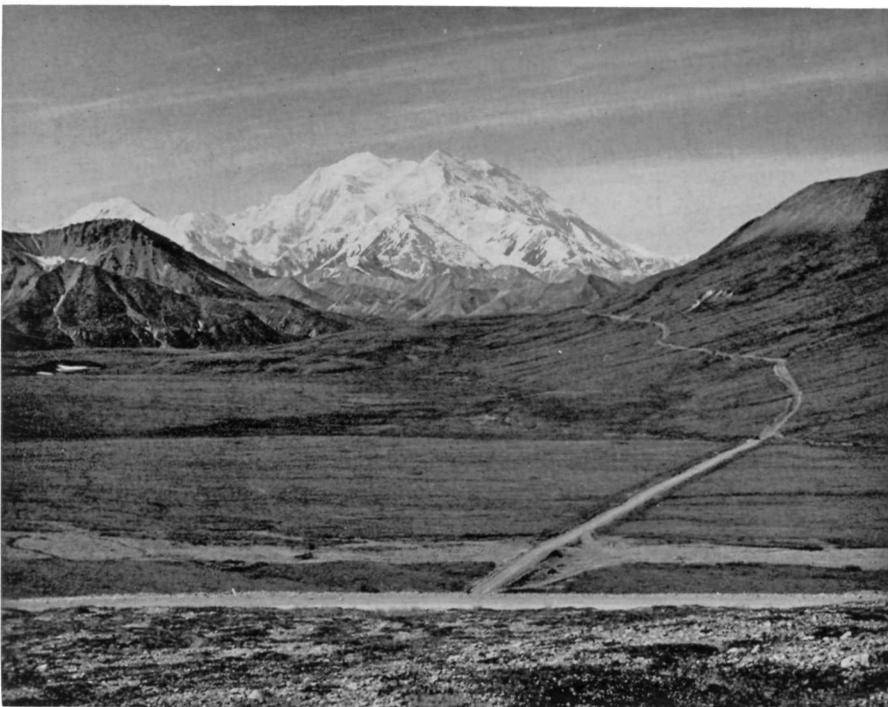
Charles Lindbergh has written a book that merits the reading and contemplation of all people who are concerned with developing a culture based on quality. It is *Of Flight and Life* published by Scribner. This little book is filled with wisdom that we should hurry to apply before we go further downhill. He refers to our life in general, but these ideas apply to our national park philosophy as well. Many of us feel that our parks and wilderness areas, so called officially for convenience, should be looked upon as places of the original earth in which nature can give us her message, unhampered by the gadgetry and machinery invented by the irresponsible ingenuity of men.

Lindbergh says, to quote at random:

We must stop measuring our standard of life by automobiles, production curves, and dollars of income. The essential simplicity of life gives way to an antlike organization of ever-growing intricacy. Man sets up a system around his theories and inventions to compete with a divine plan unfolded through the ages. He forgets that his science is of value only so long as it improves his life as it was meant to, and that unguided knowledge is as limitless and meaningless as space.

On the fly-leaf of this little book the inscription ends: "The flight of his





Charles J. Ott

How soon will the "Wilderness of Denali" (above) be altered to look like the scene below in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming? With restraint, Mount McKinley National Park can embody the spirit of the far north, where the mind can go into far places as the caribou do.

thought, in these pages, is like that flight of his, so many years ago, across the lonely wastes of the Atlantic. It is as solitary and as daring."

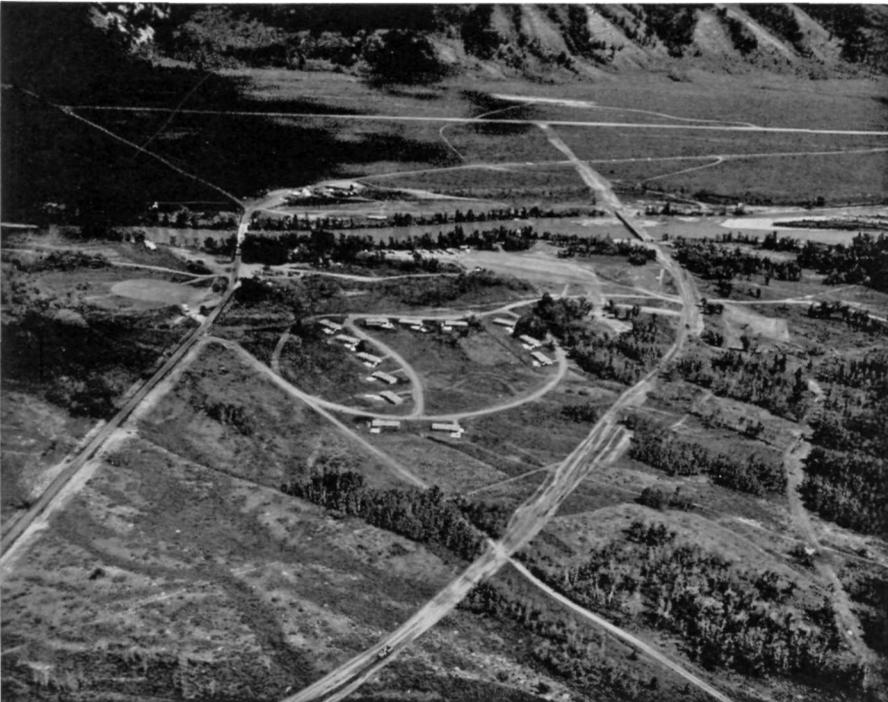
Why do we have national parks? Is it just another place in which to exercise administration, as in any city of-

Or shall it be a part of the out-of-doors with a high purpose, above and beyond the modern noise of speed and traffic? It seems to many of us that a national park should not be a mere playground, but a sacred place, a place of sanctity such as was experienced by

If a banana peel on a mountain top tames the wilderness, how much more so does the work of a bulldozer destroy the atmosphere of a national park. There should be no highways in national parks—only roads and nature trails.

Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

Philip Hyde



many of our thoughtful pioneers, who did not try to put their impressions into words. This whole question should not be approached head-long, thoughtlessly, but with restraint realizing that human impulses will in due time reach a higher level.

I don't know why I try to say these things, for there is little chance to do anything about it all. Blueprints are made somewhere, and we don't know who makes them. And I believe park administrators, too, are helpless. As far as roads are concerned, apparently the highway engineers go ahead on their own, without regard for the more suitable plans of some park planners. So far as McKinley Park is concerned, any road made should be very simple, not built for speed, but for a reflective trip into the park. This is what such a place is for. As someone said, there should be no highways in a national park, only roads. At the edge of the park, out from the hotel, there could be nature trails, intelligently planned, to the highland back there. I remember being up a very few miles from headquarters, afoot, and looking out across the valley of the Nenana River, when the sun was low. It was an emotional experience that I shall never forget.

The national park will not serve its purpose if we encourage the visitor to hurry as fast as possible for a mere glimpse of scenery from a car, and a few snapshots. Rather, there is an obligation inherent in a national park, to help the visitor get some understanding, the esthetic meaning of what is in the place. Mount McKinley National Park can embody the spirit of the far north, where the mind can go into far places as the caribou do, and the birds that migrate thousands of miles to spend the summer in this big country. I am sure we can find people spiritually equipped to help in this if we give them a chance.

In the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, at one time, I wrote my impressions on a visit to Mount McKinley National Park. The simplicity of everything was relaxing. The road was not a highway, aggressively disrupting the land, but a simple, quiet thing, and the Alaska landscape seemed to come right up to the roadside. It was restful and in keeping with what this place stands for. We should strive to keep it that way. ■

## The Editor's



## Bookshelf

THIS IS NATURE, Thirty Years of the Best from Nature Magazine, selected and edited by Richard W. Westwood. Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York, 1959. 214 pp. Illus. \$5.95.

Discovery is the theme of this collection of articles—discovery of a Nature that is always new, never exhausted by the efforts of man. Because conservation has always been a basic tenet of *Nature Magazine*, it is not surprising that the selections in this book reinforce our knowledge and appreciation of forms of animal life, and demonstrate over and over the interdependence of living things and their environment.

This interdependence is a point of emphasis in Donald Culross Peattie's article on "Pollen, the Wonder Dust of Nature," the infinitesimal grains of new life that float on the air. It is pointed up again in Carl G. Hartman's enlightening "Story of the Baby Opossum." Discovery of each case of mutual dependence in nature only underlines man's own small place in the world.

The articles are illustrated with imaginative drawings and photographs.

—A.D.V.

STARS UPSTREAM: Life Along an Ozark River, by Leonard Hall. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1958. 252 pp. Illus. \$3.95.

One gets a real yearning from *Stars Upstream* if he has known and loved the Ozarks and now is far away. The stories Len Hall tells about the Current River and her "nature" and her people is real and alive. If the Current has a story to tell, the author has heard it. Added to his life-along-the-Current River elixir are powerful potions of neo-natural history (ecology), sociology and practical conservation.

Hall's drink comes in mild doses for the uninitiated, yet brings back reveries for old timers. Small-mouth bass and

ospreys, short-leaf pine and white oaks, fly rods and gigs, wild fires and woods grazing, these and more make up this story of the Current.

The Current is Hall's river, a small river perhaps, and assuredly not one of the great navigable rivers of the "Rivers of America" series. Yet because they are landmarks on the American scene, others need to write to tell about the many rivers still untamed that should be preserved just as they are.

In the back country, we need not bleed all rivers for irrigation nor strangle all with dams. A few wild rivers and wild lands can remain a part of North America if we make up our collective mind. As Hall mentions, some Nature Conservancy members have called for "national rivers" just as we now have national parks. Because as Hall says, "Every region has its Current River," all of us must help to find a way to save the wild rivers of America.—Paul Bruce Dowling.

RECREATIONAL USE OF WILD LANDS by C. Frank Brockman. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1959. 346 pages. Illus. \$8.50.

This textbook on wild land recreation—as distinct from the city-type playground recreation—is the twenty-fifth in McGraw-Hill's *American Forestry Series* and the first, with the possible exception of Trippensee's *Wildlife Management*, that deals with non-commercial use of the outdoors.

Beginning with discussions of the importance and development of recreational interest in the outdoors, the author then presents chapters on the role of state parks, national parks and national forests in meeting this need. He notes that the recreation industry is a major factor in the economic stability of many parts of America and discusses the types of administrative and management policies best suited to the great variety of areas involved.

A former employee of both the National Park Service and the U. S. Forest Service as well as a private lumber company, Mr. Brockman is well-qualified to advise the reader that, "It is imperative that details of management of each area be conducted in accordance with its administrative policy, so that the differences in values between specific types of recreational lands will be recognized by the public." Much of the National Parks Association's sixteen-point policy statement regarding national parks and monuments revolves around this need to differentiate national parks and the uses appropriate within their boundaries from uses appropriate in resorts, city playgrounds,

and national forest recreation areas.

The book includes a most interesting final chapter describing the principal wild land recreation areas in other parts of the world, which gives perspective to the reader's study of American reserves.

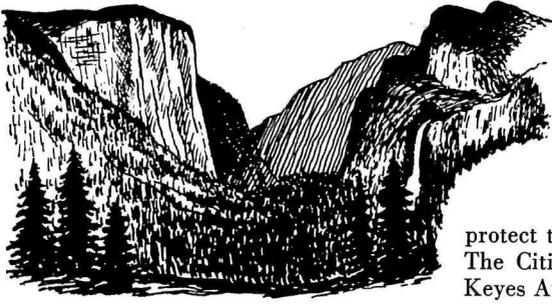
Extensive bibliographical listings at the end of each of the ten chapters will aid the reader desiring more detailed treatment of a particular aspect of wild-land recreation. Serious students of the recreation problems of America will find this a useful reference volume.—B.M.K.

## A Quick Glance at . . .

THE CRISIS IN OPEN LAND, Walter A. Tucker, Editor. American Institute of Park Executives, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia. 26 pp.—A tastefully illustrated bulletin resulting from a Park Education Workshop meeting in February 1959. Voices an urgent plea for planning in order to meet the ever-increasing need for open space. Concludes in agreement with William S. Whyte Jr. that the best policy with which to meet such situations is "When in doubt, get the land now and rationalize the purchase later!"

A BIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF KATMAI NATIONAL MONUMENT by Victor H. Cahalane. Published by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., 1959. 246 pp. Maps and plates. \$3.00.—A history and description of the Katmai region which includes surveys of birds, mammals and vegetation. "Despite rain, fog, and storms, [the Katmai Region] has a unique charm and fascination." The technical nature of the book does not prevent this charm and fascination from showing through in such passages as the descriptions of the three gaits of the brown bear or the curiosity of the moose.

A USER-RESOURCE RECREATION PLANNING METHOD, published by the National Advisory Council on Regional Recreation Planning, Loomis, California, 1959. 80 pp., illus. \$2.00.—Proposes a means of estimating the present and future recreation requirements of "users" and recreation potential of natural reservations, natural developed areas, man-developed areas and open spaces. The first phase of a long range research study program financed by Resources for the Future, Inc. A second phase proposes to test the practical application of these methods at selected pilot study areas throughout the country.



# Conservation News Briefs

## Mt. McKinley Road Improvement

A 22-mile portion of the 88-mile-long scenic road through Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska, will be improved under a contract awarded in late September by the National Park Service. The contract calls for grading, drainage, crushed-aggregate surfacing, and oil dust-palliative treatment of 8.5 miles of road between the Savage and Sanctuary Rivers. Also included is dust-palliative treatment of the adjoining 13.5 miles of recently completed roadway between the Alaska Railroad crossing near McKinley Park Hotel and the Savage River.

## Northway Goes Through

On November 3, the voters of New York state approved by a narrow margin an amendment to the state constitution authorizing construction of the controversial Northway through a portion of the state's famed Adirondack Forest Preserve. This result might have been avoided had more New Yorkers read and understood *Why Spoil the Adirondacks?* by Robert and Leona Rienow in the October issue of *Harper's Magazine*.

In their article, the Rienows point out that the proposition on the ballot was misleading. "It asks for constitutional authority to alienate some 300 acres of State-owned forest preserve land. It gives no inkling to the uninformed voter that it is not a mere 300 acres of Forest Preserve that are at stake—but the wilderness character and integrity of the whole park."

Now that New Yorkers have had their say, however, and in this instance have decided against upholding the "forever wild" character of this part of the two-million-acre Forest Preserve, the state Superintendent of Public Works assures nature lovers that he will cooperate in the "development of plans which will spare as many stands of trees as possible . . . and will guarantee preservation of the natural beauty of the area." This is easily said—not easily done—and in any event bypasses the major issue.

Information on what can be done to

protect this region may be obtained from The Citizens Northway Committee, 1504 Keyes Avenue, Schenectady 9, New York.

## Study Yellowstone Power Contract

A complete restudy of a contract between the Department of the Interior and the Montana Power Company to provide electric power for Yellowstone National Park was ordered by Acting Secretary of Interior Elmer F. Bennett early in November. The order was prompted by General Services Administrator Franklin Floete's indication that substantial errors were made in the cost estimates on which the General Services Administration based its recommendation that the power contract be awarded to the Montana Power Company.

In explaining Interior's choice of Montana Power, NPS Director Wirth has stated:

Besides the economic factors and the supply potential, the decision to try and negotiate with the Montana Power Company was influenced by the fact that coming in from the north would do the least amount of damage to park values. . . . The only proposal submitted that comes near meeting the necessary requirements, other than the proposal from the north, would have required the cutting of a right-of-way through the southwest section of the park, one of the best wild areas of the park.

## Civil War Site Threatened

The Department of Interior has dispatched a crew of geologists from the Geological Survey to 1800-foot Kennesaw Mountain (National Battlefield Park) near Atlanta, Georgia to review geological data submitted by the U. S. Air Force in defense of its choice of the mountain for a new underground radar and communications center. The geological tests at the proposed site have come as a result of a meeting between the Air Force and conservation leaders late in October in the office of Roger Ernst, Assistant Secretary of Interior for public land management.

Air Force spokesmen at the meeting explained their choice of the famous Civil War battleground, after investigating over 100 potential sites, on the basis of its favorable location with respect to existing transcontinental communication lines, the solid structure of the mountain core and the park's proximity to a sup-

port base (Dobbins Air Force Base). Another site in the Atlanta area was said to be nearly as good as Kennesaw Mountain, with the sole exception that the one-way commuting time from Dobbins Base would be somewhat longer than that usually allotted in getting military personnel back and forth to work.

Defense requirements demand that the installation be erected in a stable subterranean formation with up to 400 feet of natural rock cover overhead. The Air Force added that the defense unit's surface features would consist of an access road, parking lot, air shaft and entry tunnels in a little-used part of the park where construction scars would be obliterated.

Final decision on the question of location will await a report from the Geological Survey.

## Board Urges Cascade Study

The Lake Chelan-Glacier Peak region of Washington's Northern Cascade Mountains and the Sleeping Bear Dunes area in Michigan have been recommended for consideration for preservation in the national park system by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments.

Those proposals were among fourteen recommendations and comments the Board submitted in mid-October to Acting Secretary of Interior Elmer F. Bennett following its semiannual meeting at Grand Canyon National Park and the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff, Arizona. The Board expressed its concern that,

. . . the outstanding scenic, scientific and wilderness qualities of publicly-owned lands in the Lake Chelan-Glacier Peak region of the northern Cascade Mountains of Washington shall be most fully and securely conserved for the benefit of this Nation. The Board endorses the view of many conservation organizations, individuals and members of Congress who urge that the national park potentialities of the region be determined. The Board, therefore, urges that the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior respectively authorize the Forest Service and the National Park Service to undertake joint studies for the full evaluation of such potentialities for the information of the Congress and the public.

In its recommendation that the Sleeping Bear Dunes shoreline area be con-

sidered for establishment as a unit in the National Park System, the Board noted that the area contains the largest extent of active dunes on the Great Lakes.

The Board said the area also embraces towering morainal bluffs, forested dunes, and a complex of well-defined, ancient beach ridges and swales on the Platts Plains fronted by some of the Great Lakes' finest beaches. The story of plant succession for this part of the United States is vividly portrayed in well-defined steps from barren sand to climax forests of maple and beech. The combination of these and other features give the area national significance.

Members of the Advisory Board are: Frank E. Masland Jr., of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Chairman; Harold P. Fabian, Salt Lake City, Utah, Chairman of the Utah State Park and Recreation Commission, Vice Chairman; Dr. Edward B. Danson, Flagstaff, Arizona, Director of the Museum of Northern Arizona, Secretary; Dr. E. Raymond Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas; Dr. John A. Krout, Vice President and Provost, Columbia University, New York; John B. Oakes, New York; Earl H. Reed, Chicago; Fred Smith, Newark, New Jersey; Carl I. Wheat, Menlo Park, California; Robert G. Sproul, Berkeley, California; and Sigurd F. Olson, Ely, Minnesota.

### Congressman's Quest Thwarted

The United States Forest Service has turned down a request by Congressman Thomas M. Pelly of Washington to permit the National Park Service to make a study of the national park possibilities of the North Cascades of Washington. In his August 24, 1959, letter to Mr. Pelly, Dr. Richard E. McArdle, Chief of the Forest Service states:

After most careful consideration, we have concluded that the proposed field investigation at this time by the National Park Service of national-forest lands in the North Cascades should not be undertaken . . .

Your letter of March 9 recognizes that public hearings have been scheduled in connection with the proposal to establish a Glacier Peak wilderness area. Concern is expressed lest the Forest Service give undue weight to commercial timber values and roadside recreation, and, according to the letter, the purpose of the proposed Park Service investigation of national-forest land is to enable the public to appraise the "opportunities here in fair perspective." We do not feel that the Forest Service gives undue weight to commercial timber values or roadside recreation, nor that our appraisal of national-forest values is biased.

We seriously question whether an appraisal of the multiple national-forest values can be carried out better by an agency of another department having no administrative responsibilities for the particular area in

question, nor for the national forests in general.

Furthermore, the Act of June 23, 1936 (16 U.S.C. 17k), specifically exempts lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture from the authority granted therein to the Secretary of the Interior to study recreational programs and facilities.

We appreciate your interest in the North Cascades. And we hope you may understand the reasons why we feel that the Forest Service should continue to administer the area and that the proposed investigation by the National Park Service would be undesirable.

### Hearings at Great Basin

Senator Alan Bible of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee will conduct a hearing in Ely, Nevada on December 5, 7 and 8 on the proposed Great Basin National Park. Field studies by the Park Service and private conservation organizations and recommendations of the Advisory Board on National Parks all indicate that the 147,000-acre proposed park near Ely is of national significance and of a caliber for inclusion in the system of national parks and monuments.

Mining interests are using the recent beryllium discovery in the area as a rallying point for opposition to the park. Nevada politicians have consistently favored its establishment.

Persons wishing to express their oral or written views on the proposal may contact Senator Bible at the Courthouse in Ely before December 8, or at the Senate Office Building, Wash., D. C.

### Dinosaur Amendment Questioned

In a letter of August 28, 1959 to Senator James E. Murray, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton recommended enactment of Senator Gordon Allott's proposal to raise the status of Dinosaur National Monument to a national park, *provided* it is amended to strike out the controversial "reservoir and canal sites" wording and substitute wording identical to that found in the presently amended Chesapeake and Ohio Canal bill. This latter wording states:

Any portion of the lands and interest in lands comprising the Dinosaur National Park shall be made available upon Federal statutory authorization for public non-park uses when such uses shall have been found, in consideration of the public interest, to have a greater public necessity than the uses authorized by this act.

Some conservationists have raised the question of whether this might not be construed as a revocation of the statement of intent found in the Upper Colo-

rado Storage Project Act (Public Law 485, 84th Congress, 1956) which provides: "It is the intention of Congress that no dam or reservoir constructed under the authorization of this Act shall be within any national park or monument." Experts familiar with the problem are giving considerable study to possible effects of the alternative provisions set forth in Mr. Seaton's wording.

Similar legislation by Congressman John Saylor of Pennsylvania is pending before the House. Mr. Saylor's bill would accomplish the change of status without including the "reservoir and canal sites" wording.

### Tioga Road Nearly Complete

Paving of the remaining unsurfaced twenty miles of the Tioga Road in Yosemite National Park, California began in October according to a National Park Service news release. Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth said the contract calls for base coursing and paving the center section of Tioga Road between McSwain Meadows, near White Wolf Lodge spur, and Cathedral Creek. Also included is work on twelve parking areas with a total capacity of 225 automobiles. All work in the contract was scheduled for completion within 180 days.

In 1958 many conservationists questioned the need for adhering so closely to highway-type gentle curvature and gradient standards employed in non-park regions. (See *Yosemite-1958, Compromise in Action* in the October-December 1958 NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE and *The Tioga Road* in the January 1959 issue.)

### Volcano Vents Anger

Pele, goddess of volcanoes, is angry again. In this way, Hawaiian legend explained the mid-November eruption of Kilauea Iki crater in Hawaii National Park. On the sixth day of activity the flying lava and rock from the highest volcanic fountain ever recorded in Hawaii shattered windshields of three sight-seeing planes. The Geological Survey's volcano observatory staff had predicted a new cycle of activity in the area in a news release a month earlier. (NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, November, 1959, p. 14.) Eyewitnesses described two "waterfalls" of orange-red liquid rock gushing from a 30-yard rift in the crater's inner south wall forming a lake in the pit 300 to 500 feet below. Because Kilauea Iki's crater is a quarter-mile wide and 600 feet deep, there was little danger of overflow. The eruption was expected to stop in a few days but scientists warned that another could develop in the adjacent crater wall.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Asks Defense of Redwoods

In one of our local papers recently we read that some of our best redwood groves [near Eureka in northern California] are in danger from the flood waters that have been washed down due to the wanton destruction of the wooded slopes above by the lumber interests. Apparently the redwoods are not able to take this flooding and we do hope that some concerted effort is made to correct this condition. How grateful we in California should be to those who were far-sighted enough to start the drive to save our redwoods. Far too many are still in line for destruction if no effort is made to save them.

MRS. EDMOND F. DUCOMMUN  
San Marino, California

• The Los Angeles Times reported on October 19 that the California Division of Beaches and Parks hopes to buy 18,000 privately-owned acres above Rockefeller Forest. Of the \$1.5 million needed, \$235,000 is available, and Save-the-Redwoods League will match the sum. The rest must come from government or other sources.—*Editor*.

### Airs Pollution Views

Every school child is taught the fact that green foliage and grass absorb the carbon that is poison to our lungs and in return make and give us oxygen—the most precious substance in the whole world because without it we cannot live. I read of projects to divide highways in the middle by high chain fences. Many are now divided by cement strips. But nurserymen will tell you that there exists tough shrubbery that will even stand up to onslaught by a speeding car. And the sight of broken fences proves that many of them cannot withstand a really bad speeder any better than tough shrubbery could. I invite any one who wants to give thought to this matter, to stop in the

vicinity of any tree or large bush or a small plot of grass on a smoggy day in a city. You will at once notice that even one small piece of vegetation gives you relief. You feel you are breathing air again instead of the impossible concoction of gases that prevails where nothing is planted.

ELENA VARNECK  
El Granada, California

• According to "How Much Poison Are You Breathing?" in the October 1959 issue of *Harper's Magazine*, "No single suspect has been isolated as the cause of lung cancer, but it is a demonstrated fact that many cancer-producing agents—called 'carcinogens'—have been detected in auto exhausts." We're for more parks and open spaces.—*Editor*.

### Park Service Praised

Many of your readers I am sure will be delighted to know that the National Park Service has made some outstanding improvements at the least visited of our national parks—Isle Royale. Over 20 new Appalachian-type huts costing \$500 each have been built on this rocky terrain to benefit campers, and a new million-dollar *Ranger* [boat] now makes the crossing from Houghton, Michigan in a delightful five hours. Such improvements make one proud of his National Park Service.

RAYMOND MOSTEK  
Vice President  
Illinois Audubon Society

### Down By the Riverside . . . Parks

Last spring, my brother, J. Harold Thompson of Pittsburgh, and I made a trip from Cincinnati to New Orleans by steamboat. On the way, my brother—who has spent many years in the Rockies and Canadian scenery, and I observed that on the northern side of the river on which we were traveling, there are beautiful sites for parks including hills or mountains, and fine shorelines. At the same time we observed that the business interests of the country are naturally taking possession along the river particularly on the Indiana side and were building big plants that tended to absolutely destroy the scenic values.

It seems to me the desirability of establishing a series of state parks in this region should be investigated. As one who has spent a good part of his life in looking into matters of this kind, I can assure you there are park values along the northern side of the river all the way from Cincinnati to the Mississippi River.

HUSTON THOMPSON  
Washington, D. C.

### Applauds Poem

Congratulations for that superb poem *Our National Parks* by Edward Roesken in the November issue. It makes one pause and think, for in these days so much beauty is taken for granted.

MRS. HERBERT BROWN  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### Need Wilderness Education

It would be extremely helpful to have articles on the different parks and the sort of trips into their wilderness areas that could be taken by 'tenderfeet' in overnight hikes, two-day hikes, and that sort of thing—including such practical information as concerns equipment, maps, and where these things may be obtained. If you want people to enjoy the parks in their primitive state, something will have to be done to educate people in the ways this can be done. As long as the 'one-day' visitor is the norm, we will have more and more roads, parking areas, and hot-dog stands in the parks and who will be able to complain if there are not other uses of the park available?

ELEANOR E. GAMER  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

### Holiday Covers Parks

This letter is to bring to your attention an article that is an unparalleled masterpiece in the July 1959 issue of *Holiday* magazine, entitled "Your National Parks" by Jack Shaefer, whom I suggest be given an award.

SIDNEY ROCKMAN  
Carteret, New Jersey

### Canadian Parks

A friend and I took a camping trip to Grand Teton, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Parks this summer and then visited Banff, Jasper, and Elk Island National Parks in Canada. We returned feeling very proud of our national parks and enthusiastic backers of the idea of preserving nature's wonders. You will forgive our bias, I am sure, but we preferred our parks and their programs to those of Canada. We were disappointed in finding resort towns in the midst of national parks there—so much commercialism seems out of place—and we noted the lack of ranger-naturalists and guided nature hikes. I must admit, however, that we did see more wild animals close up in Canada than in the United States.

JANE RODMAN  
Bloomington, Indiana

# Your NPA at Work

## REDDISH KNOB TRIP

With the assistance of the U. S. Forest Service, NPA Executive Secretary Anthony Wayne Smith led an expedition on October 22-25 along the crest of Shenandoah Mountain in the Reddish Knob area in forested western Virginia. Primary purpose of the trip was to survey possible defenses against big dams and big roads in the wilderness country there. A party of about twenty-five persons including leaders of a number of national conservation organizations participated.

In spite of heavy downpours of rain, the party traversed considerable distances along the ridge top on foot and camped out two nights. The area is of significance as essentially wilderness country of the kind which can provide recreational overflow facilities to lighten pressures on national parks.

On his return from the trip Executive Secretary Smith addressed a letter to Mr. Alfred Anderson, Supervisor of the George Washington National Forest, protesting against a plan to black-top a forest road leading along the crest of the mountain to the fire-control tower on Reddish Knob.

## GLACIER CRITICISM ANSWERED

In reply to Executive Secretary Anthony Wayne Smith's letter concerning the organized entertainment at Glacier Park hotels (see *Your NPA at Work* in the October 1959 issue), Acting Director Hillory Tolson of the National Park Service stated:

We believe the entertainment provided in the Park by the concessioner's employees does not conflict with legitimate Park use. In fact, it is very much like the "savage" shows given for years in the Parks by the concessioner's employees except that they are better staged. The shows are given three or four nights a week commencing about 8:30 p.m., after the Ranger Naturalist talks, and they are largely for the recreation of the concessioner's employees. Admission is free and the public is welcome, but no special effort is made to induce attendance other than the placing of notices on the bulletin boards.

The activities at Glacier Park Lodge and the Prince of Wales Hotel are not subject to control by the Government.

They are outside the boundaries of Glacier National Park and are not included in the concession contract of the Glacier Park Company.

## NPA MAY INTERVENE IN GLOVER-ARCHBOLD SUIT

The National Parks Association has asked the District Court of the District of Columbia to allow it to intervene as a friend of the court in the dispute over plans to run a highway through the District's 179-acre Glover-Archbold Park. Anne Archbold and Charles Glover Jr. have brought suit for an injunction to bar construction of a high-speed highway through the park, which Mrs. Archbold and Glover's father gave to the government in 1924.

The Parks Association maintains that a most important issue in the court case is "the preservation of a precious, beneficial and salutary national park, which the [District of Columbia] proposed to desecrate by the construction of a commercial highway." The District has opposed the Association's request, arguing that the Association is obviously taking a "partisan" view and that friends of the court are supposed to advise the court from a neutral position. A decision regarding the Association's request will be made in early December when the court rules on the District's request to dismiss the whole suit.

## NAVY THREATENS ALBATROSSES

The National Parks Association has registered a vigorous protest with Secretary of the Navy W. B. Franke against a Navy proposal to kill a large part of the albatross population on Sand Island in the Midway Group. Increased air traffic has made the soaring birds an even greater hazard to incoming planes, because of possible bird-plane collisions.

The Fish and Wildlife Service recommends land leveling on both sides of the runway to eliminate thermal drafts which encourage the huge birds to soar in the vicinity of the airstrip. Great concern, however, has been expressed by conservationists who believe the Navy intends to resort to mass extermination of the more than 400,000 birds on the island in its efforts to solve the problem quickly.

In his letter to Secretary Franke, Association Executive Secretary A. W. Smith indicated his "firm support of the necessary measures for the national defense," but questioned whether a nation with our technological abilities cannot solve its problems at Midway "without destroying a quarter of the entire global population of a valuable and interesting species of bird."

Letters from NPA members may be directed to Hon. W. B. Franke, The Pentagon, Washington 25, D. C.

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## Oregon Dunes: Menace or Heritage

"I love our view of the dunes; but I can see no object in attempting to preserve them." This seemingly contradictory statement was part of the opposition's testimony at the October 5 and 7 hearings at Reedsport and Eugene, Oregon on the proposed Oregon Dunes National Seashore. Justifying this position, attorney L. L. Ray of Eugene, added:

They are a menace to highway, timber and navigation. Their control is more important than their preservation . . . The larger part of these dunes is already under federal control and is a part of the Siuslaw National Forest. No sound reason exists for taking them out of control of the Forest Service with its multiple-use program and placing them under the Department of the Interior and devoting them to a single use.

Thus the misleading term "single use" was employed again against the National Park Service—an agency devoted to maintaining a relatively few small segments of natural America in their nearly original state for the use and enjoyment of all Americans in such ways as will leave them unimpaired for use by future generations.

Proponents' testimony pointed strongly to the advantages to the general public of the seashore proposal in terms of preservation intact of the unique biological and geological area between the Siuslaw and Umpqua Rivers along Oregon's south-central coast. The National Park Service indicated that following Mr. Ray's plan of permitting an assortment of unrelated and conflicting uses in the area would gradually

. . . reduce its character and benefits to mediocrity. Its preservation, development and operation under a unified and consistent plan for public park purposes would seem to be the logical way to realize its greatest public benefits.

In testimony sounding amazingly like

that which has been used repeatedly against the Wilderness Bill, the Lane County Farm Bureau urged that the seashore proposal await the results of the survey now being conducted by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission. The Western Lane Tax Association maintained the proposal is unnecessary and that it would have unfavorable impact on the local tax structure, the local economy and the individual citizen of the area. In sharp contrast to this contention, the National Park Service's 56-page *Economic Report* on the proposal indicated that an Oregon Dunes National Seashore would increase the area's total annual income to 26.5 million dollars by the year 1990 compared to 8.3 million without a national seashore.

Dan Allen, Governor Mark Hatfield's spokesman at the Eugene hearings, was accused by Senator Richard L. Neuberger, who conducted the hearings, of selecting facts to fit his case against the

seashore proposal. Allen, executive-secretary of the State Committee on Natural Resources, maintained that not enough study has been given to the proposal and that preservation of significant features of the Oregon coast is already assured through public ownership of many areas. About half of the land is under public ownership leaving some 13,250 acres of private lands.

The extensive studies made of the area by ecologist William S. Cooper, professor emeritus of botany, University of Minnesota, would seem to upset part of Allen's first contention. (Cooper's research began in 1919 and has been carried on in 1925, 1928, 1933, 1940 and 1941.) In his report submitted at the hearing, Cooper noted:

The supreme and unique natural beauty of the area is unquestioned. It is by far the longest stretch of unbroken beach on the Pacific coast of the United States. Its dunes surpass all others, including both coasts, in size and beauty.

With respect to the specific boundary locations, Cooper has suggested that the area between Umpqua River and Tenmile Creek be added to the proposal and the Sea Lion Cave unit to the north be excluded and perhaps established as a state park. He feels Cleawox, Woahink and Tahkenitch Lakes should be included, but perhaps not Siltcoos Lake.

While recreation is normally the major purpose in establishing a seashore area, Cooper stressed that its value for research should not be overlooked:

In all planning for management of the national seashore, the features that contribute to the scientific value of the area should be scrupulously safeguarded. . . The moving dunes . . . should be allowed to follow their natural course of development except at points where they are an actual menace to essential facilities.

### *Tentative Schedule of Hearings on*

#### PROPOSED PARK AREAS

*December 5, 7 and 8, Ely, Nevada,  
Great Basin National Park*

*December 9, 10, Eastham, Massachusetts,  
Cape Cod Seashore Park*

*December 14, 15, Corpus Christi,  
Texas, Padre Island Seashore  
Park*

Interested persons may contact the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D.C. to express their views for or against the establishment of these parks.

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National Park Service

Oregon Dunes between the Siuslaw and Umpqua Rivers, Oregon

The scenic qualities of the Oregon Dunes landscape are ever-changing due to the timeless action of winds. The dunes are moving slowly but inexorably inland from the clean, sandy beaches. Except for small isolated islands of tree-clad hills still protruding from the sands, they have completely inundated what was once a thick coniferous forest. In their relentless march, the 200-foot dunes have begun to overwhelm the present-day coniferous forest and the more ancient 450-foot dunes on which it grows. The interrelationship of the dunes, the placid fresh-water lakes and the forest constitute one of the most interesting records of geologic history and ecology to be found in the development of the present-day coast.

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